



# RUMSON

## Borough Bulletin

SUMMER  
2008

Settled in 1665



*Rumson Country Club was incorporated in 1908, and its picturesque golf course and elegant gates have been an enduring landmark in Rumson for 100 years. Pictured above (top) is a vintage postcard showing the first clubhouse structure, which was destroyed in a 1945 fire. Formerly the Edward Scudder home, the current clubhouse (bottom) was moved by barge from The Point Estate to its location near the former polo field the following year.*

## ALL ABOUT RUMSON

### RUMSON COUNTRY CLUB

Those who enjoyed the fireworks that lit up the skies above the Shrewsbury River on June 21<sup>st</sup> were witness to a part of the Centennial event at The Rumson Country Club, which was founded in 1908 and has become a prominent part of our community. The history of this Rumson landmark coincides with that of the Borough of Rumson, and many of the people who were influential in the Club's development were also important to the growth and success of our community.

In the early 1870's, some prescient summer visitors to the fashionable resort of Seabright began to build their "cottages" on this side of the river along Rumson Road. Although their homes were located in Rumson, the early "cottagers" gave Seabright as their address. A full range of activities was enjoyed by these early residents, and clubs were formed for the most popular pastimes of golf, tennis, sailing and polo. In 1875, the first tennis equipment was imported to the United States for installation in Staten Island, and, within months, Seabright summer residents ordered equipment and installed courts at local homes. The Seabright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club was organized in 1878, and the famous clay courts were first used in 1880.

The Seabright Golf Club was started in 1887, and William Everard Strong, a familiar name in Rumson history, was a founder and the first president. Golf was quite new to this country, and J. Frederick Talcott (1866-1944) said in his memoirs that he was "one of the first to take it up in our part of the world." He and his brother-in-law, Harden Crawford, played on a newly constructed nine hole course, probably that of the Seabright Golf Club, which was located on the Navarro estate near the Shrewsbury River on 104 acres south of Rumson Road between Bellevue Avenue and Buena Vista Avenue in Rumson. The Clubhouse was located in Seabright, quite some distance from the golf course and quite near to the ocean. Mrs. Leighton Lobdell recalled a party held at the Seabright Golf Club during which a noreaster began. "The house shook, salt water diluted the drinks, and Mrs. Boston, the manager, had to awaken the overnight guests to warn them of possible disaster. They took a rowboat to the Rumson shore." The directors of the Seabright Golf Club were ready for a change of venue.

Polo was immensely popular at this time in history, and the Rumson Polo Club held polo meets regularly on fields located on the farms of the members. A. Fred Maffeo wrote the entry about the Rumson Country Club that appeared in the *History of Rumson* written by Rumson High School students in 1944. In his article, he said that "Polo is best described as hockey on horseback." History seems to have obscured the facts about the actual founding of the Rumson Polo Club, but it seems that it began with the new century around 1900. The club was a very active organization that regularly ran polo meets, but they didn't have a clubhouse for social events that would naturally have surrounded the polo meets.

The Meadow Yacht Club served the fashionable boaters of the area and was located at the foot of Buena Vista Avenue on the Shrewsbury River. Mr. Frederick Tompkins family has trophies and momentos that recount races held in 1893 by the Long Meadow Yacht Club, which evolved into simply the Meadow Yacht Club. Samuel Riker, William B. Potts and J.W. Spalding, younger brother of A.G. Spalding and co-founder of A.G. Spalding and Brothers sporting goods manufacturers, were among those who were members of the Meadow Yacht Club and later were founders of the Rumson Country Club.

With the Incorporation of Rumson in June of 1907, things began to change in this area, and it was no longer necessary to claim a link to Seabright in order to be fashionable. The New York and Long Branch Railroad had regular trains coming to the Shore, and Rumson was quickly developing into its own destination. Between 1900 and 1909, 301 houses were built in Rumson, a veritable population explosion. Rumson was the place to be, and those who were here wanted what Charles D. Halsey called "a focus of community life"-one club at a single location for all of the activities that the residents enjoyed and an elegant clubhouse for social events.

The Rumson Country Club was incorporated on November 23, 1908 by Edward Dean Adams, George F. Vietor and Thomas McCarter. According to the *New York Times* of December 5, 1908, "The Rumson Country Club will be a combination of the Meadow Yacht Club, the Rumson Polo Club and the Seabright Golf Club. While each of the three clubs now have their separate establishments, they are so closely connected that it has long been felt that what was needed was a large, modern, well-situated clubhouse. Originally the Cricket Club was to enter into the combination, but it withdrew." The Cricket Club seems to be a shorter version of the Seabright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club, and it seems that their decision against participation in the nascent Rumson Country Club had to do with their specialized clay and turf courts, which could not possibly have been relocated. Most of the Seabright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club members joined the new club and also remained members of their original club.

An insignia was created to symbolize the union of four separate clubs; it was a likeness of a Japanese symbol for good luck. Four major sports were symbolized by the insignia and were included in the plans for the new Club: tennis, golf, polo and boating. Trap shooting and squash were also included in the plans, and clay shooting came shortly thereafter.

The founding Board of Directors worked with \$250,000 in capital that was divided into 2,500 shares. The first President was financier Edward Dean Adams, and the Vice-President was Thomas McCarter, Chairman of the Board of the Public Service Corp. of New Jersey. Samuel Riker, a lawyer, was Secretary, and Rumson's well known philanthropist Bertram Borden was the Treasurer. Fritz Achelis, George Vietor, partners in a well known dry goods company in New York, John Prentice Kellogg, member of the NY Stock Exchange, William Potts, and Felix M. Warburg, a banker, were the other Directors. The initiation fee was \$100.00, and annual dues were \$200.00 for members over 30 and \$150.00 for those beneath that age. There was a fee of \$25.00 for adult children between the ages of 18-21. The number of members was between 400-500, a figure which included family members of the 139 founders.

Of overall importance was securing property and having a clubhouse designed and built. A parcel of about 213 acres of land with a 1,972 foot frontage on Rumson Road and good river frontage was purchased from Thomas N. and Madeline G. McCarter for \$75,000. Within a year, another 13.6 acres from Robert H. and Mary Bouvier McCarter brought the total to 226.7. At about the same time, Rumson Councilman Charles Halsey offered a site that ran west of Bingham Avenue from the Shrewsbury River to beyond what is now Ridge Road, but this parcel of land was not as appealing as the Rumson Road location. How different Rumson would look today if Mr. Halsey's site had been selected; the area of Sheraton Lane could be a fairway. The New York architectural firm of Freeman and Hasselman was hired to design a clubhouse, and Charles W. Leavitt was retained as their civil and landscape engi-

neer. Much of the land near the river was low enough to be in danger of frequent flooding, so Mr. Leavitt constructed a “Dykewalk” along the area that was to become the main polo field and site of the clubhouse and tennis courts. Essentially, the golf course has remained in the same location and with few changes since it was designed by Herbert Barker. Herbert Field, the “Polo and Aviation Field,” was near the site of the present clubhouse. It was a practice field for polo and available for the newly invented airplanes to land upon. The first Wright Brothers flight was in December of 1903, and the design of the Rumson Country Club included provision for airplanes just five years later in 1908! There were stables for the polo ponies nearby. The clubhouse of the Meadow Yacht Club was moved to become the Rumson Country Club Boat House perched at the end of its own dock over the river.



Board President Edward D. Adams hoisted a large American flag on the bowling green at the formal opening on July 3, 1910, and the first game of golf was played before a polo match began.

The cost of building the clubhouse was \$125,000, and it was praised by *Architecture Magazine* for being designed to convey the feeling of a large private country house rather than a hotel. It also mentioned that fireproof materials had been specified. The November 1910 issue of the *Architectural Record* described:

“The exterior wood is trim stained a pleasing dark color (dark brown), blending well with the stucco. The roof is slate. The requirements of a country club combining, as this one does, four branches of outdoor life, demanded careful thought.”

What an experience it must have been to spend time at the newly completed Rumson Country Club. There were three entrances, a main entry flanked by separate entrances for ladies and men. As one entered each of the doors, there was a coat room and stair



way to an upstairs locker room. The ladies’ section had its own reception room. The main entrance led to the Main Hall which led to a lounging area set off by columns; this entire area was used as a ballroom. Dining rooms with partitions allowed division for large and small gatherings, and a walkway led to a beautiful terrace overlooking the river where members could dine outside. Large sunny windows and a light color scheme made the inside bright and inviting. Accessible from the men’s entrance were the billiards room and the grill room with its dark wood beams, brick fire place and moose head hung above the door. A separate wing with an out

of public view entrance and service yard held the kitchen, pantry, bakery and servants hall where the employees were quartered. Victorian sentiments lingered, and female employees had rooms on the second floor of the service wing, while male employees were given space on the third floor of the main building. Locker rooms, a reading room and fifteen bedrooms ready to be rented out were located on the second floor, and a barber shop was a nice feature located next to the men’s locker room. The card room was on this level and had a balcony overlooking the polo field and the river. The latest technology was utilized to offer such features as a refrigerating plant, and all bedrooms had telephones. Mrs. Preston was the first Club Manager, and she was in charge for over thirty years. Described as a “Victorian lady who wore black dresses with high collars and ruled with an iron hand,” she was so formal that no document has survived to shed light on her first name! Scottish golf pro William Green also began his career when the Rumson Country Club opened, and he was presented with a Pathe Philippe gold watch with a gold chain upon the occasion of his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

An interesting event happened during a boat race held during a stormy afternoon in September of 1914. Samuel Riker, Jr. was racing his knockabout, Frances, with his friend Robert McCarter, former Attorney General of NJ, when a gale capsized the boat tossing the two men into the river right in front of the Clubhouse. The two were picked up by Howard S. Borden’s flier which was bringing Mrs. Borden and some friends back from a day in New York. According to the *NY TIMES* report, Mr. McCarter “was caught under the mainsail and going down when steam yachts came to the rescue.” Mr. Riker was clinging to the rudder and singing “Nearer My God to Thee” when he was rescued.

Polo was the sport that drew the most attention to the Club, and players came from around the world to participate in the polo meets. So many spectators took the trains to Seabright to attend polo events that special “auto stages” were arranged to transport them to the Club. General Howard Borden, owner of the Old Oaks estate on the Navesink River, chaired the Polo Committee; he also organized and played on the team. Apparently, younger members began to complain that General Borden, who was nearing 60, was too old to continue competing in such a strenuous sport. He quit the team, founded his own “Old Oaks” team and won the championship by defeating the Rumson Country Club team by a large margin in a game in which he scored several exciting goals. Polo events were followed by traditional afternoon teas served by butlers in distinctive blue jackets with brass buttons.

Through the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the club flourished and was known as the most elegant facility on the New Jersey Shore. A look at the *New York Times* Archives turns up continual reports of the sporting and social events at the Rumson Country Club. Lists that included every guest at events appeared regularly in the social news. Anyone who was visiting local families was recorded, and a veritable “Who’s Who” of American society enjoyed the breezes on the terrace of the Club. The most popular entertainers such as Eddie Duchin’s orchestra performed for the members.

During World War I, members left for military service, and four lost their lives. Four oak trees were planted in memory of William Henry Meeker (Oceanic Free Library was donated in his memory), Andre Cheronnet-Champillon, Edward Jules Lamarche and James Charles Amy.

The Great Depression began in 1929, and it didn’t have an immediate impact, but, gradually, even the financially well-off began to be affected. Half of the working people in Rumson were em-



ployed by the large estates and the Rumson Country Club, which was Rumson's largest employer in the early 1930's. As the economy worsened, the Club began to seek cost-saving measures such as trimming the payroll. Finally, the Directors made the difficult decision to cut wages in half rather than be forced to let long-time employees go. As soon as possible, wages were restored to their earlier levels. In 1939, the third floor of the Clubhouse was removed along with a wing that held guest rooms in another effort to cut costs. The effects of the Depression lasted for many years, and the financially stressed Board reduced the amount of fire insurance coverage on the Club from \$88,000 to \$30,000. This action came back to haunt them at 6:45 AM on February 7, 1945 when a devastating fire started in the furnace room and swept through the clubhouse. Because the building was near the river and so far from Rumson Road, water power to the fire hydrant nearest the clubhouse was not sufficient to fight the fire. Rumson Fire Chief Arthur Pauels called for support from neighboring companies and was forced to cut a hole in the ice in order to pump the river water onto the fire. It took all day to stop the fire, and, when it was extinguished, the once elegant clubhouse stood in ruins. It was beyond repair.

We have reached the part of the story where we return to The Point. The damage from the fire was estimated at \$75,000, and the Club's insurance coverage was for \$30,000. For a time, the J. Ford Johnson home across the street at 178 Rumson Road was used as a Clubhouse, and one option was to purchase that home and move it across the street to the country club property. With the sale of the Johnson house to other buyers, Clement L. Despard, President of the Rumson Country Club, was faced with a major problem, and the ideal answer appeared at the perfect time. The large estate that was located where Oyster Bay Drive and Avenue of Two Rivers South are today. Edward W. Scudder, Publisher of the *Newark Evening News*, had purchased The Point in the mid 1920's and had lived there for about 20 years. During that time, his children, Edward, jr., Richard and Dorothea, had grown up, married and were living independently. Mr. Scudder decided to relocate to a beautiful property across the river in Locust and to subdivide and develop The Point estate. The large mansion in which he lived had supplanted the William Everard Strong home, which was also called The Point and had previously overlooked the Shrewsbury River from the same spot. Around 1921 when they purchased The Point, Dr. and Mrs. John A. Vietor moved the house that they had purchased from Dr. Walker Gill Wylie by barge from the corner of Navesink Avenue and Shrewsbury Avenue onto The Point, and the original mansion was moved off their land to its current location at 121 Avenue of Two Rivers near the Oceanic Free Library. They only remained here for about six years before selling the estate to Edward Scudder. Oddly enough, Mr. Scudder purchased the Locust property from the son of Dr. Walker Gill Wylie, original owner of the house being discussed. Twenty-five years later, the Wylie/Vietor/Scudder house moved again when Mr. Scudder decided to essentially donate it to the Country Club. At the time, tax laws made it costly to receive a gift, so a minimum price of \$3,000 was paid for the current Clubhouse, which was cut into two sections and floated along the riverfront on a barge. One section went along without any problems, but the second part of the house quickly became lodged on a sandbar and had to remain there until the next full tide, a month later, when it slid free and was moved to its new location. Club members had to decide where to place the new clubhouse and voted for a place further inland than the original site. It took nearly a year for the Scudder house to be transported, reassembled and

remodeled for its new use. Because of inadequate funds to finance the new structure, members were asked to donate what they could and also to donate furnishings and artwork for the new clubhouse. The result was a great outpouring of decorative gifts which have been enjoyed by members for the past sixty years.



In the 1930's, J. Frederick Talcott donated "a little caddy house with a hundred lockers, a room for games and for a small library." In 1950, former Club President George M. Bodman donated funds to add a new mens' locker room to the clubhouse. Rather than a simple locker room, the design created an elegant paneled room with a fireplace and an elegant chandelier that is useful for small parties and meetings.

During the 1950's the Club added Platform Tennis, which started with one court in 1955 and grew to the point where the Club teams participated in Statewide tournaments and hosted the National Junior Paddle Tournament.

With the 1970's came an interest in having a family-oriented facility on the river. Funds were raised to build the 25 meter AAU standard pool and poolhouse with waterfront dining facilities, and it has become the center of summer activity for members and their children.

Some customs remained rooted in the early years of the organization, and it was not until 1985 that the first female member of the Board of Directors, Mrs. Charles J. Werber, was selected. Shortly thereafter, the custom of formal dress for all Board meetings was discontinued.

The Nor'easter in December of 1991 brought three days of driving wind and rain and dreadfully high tides that did great damage to Rumson homes and took down hundreds of trees. The violent weather battered the old Boathouse until it was nothing more than broken boards floating on the Shrewsbury, and it was a painful loss for the Club. Little was salvaged, and the structure has not been replaced.

Innovations of more recent years have included the addition of croquet, and a regulation croquet court and practice area were created in 1996.

As the Rumson Country Club enters its second century, it continues to maintain a tradition of elegant living and excellence in sports ranging from the original four of tennis, golf, boating and polo (discontinued in the 1940's) to the wider spectrum that is offered today.

*Footnote: In preparation for the Centennial celebration, Mrs. Ethel J. Moran researched the history of the Rumson Country Club and very generously shared her notes and materials. She worked with Mrs. Jean Kaeli, and the end result of their collaboration will be a book that will be available to Club members later this year. This article is indebted to their thorough and highly detailed research along with that of Will Morissey, former editor of this publication and author of a history done in honor of the Rumson Country Club's 75th Anniversary in 1983.*

## **AN UPDATE ON FEASIBILITY STUDY OF S.H.A.R.E.D SERVICES**

### **(Sharing Available Resources Efficiently)**

Patriot Consulting Group presented options on sharing areas of law enforcement services to the elected officials of Rumson, Little Silver and Fair Haven at a joint meeting held in Little Silver July 9th.

The three-month study, which was funded by a State of New Jersey S.H.A.R.E. Grant of \$25,000, assessed the feasibility of sharing and possibly regionalizing the three municipal police departments into one regional department.

In reviewing the many law enforcement delivery options available to Fair Haven, Little Silver and Rumson, Patriot Consulting Group recommended the three towns share police purchasing, dispatch, information technology, prisoner holding, detectives, youth officers and traffic enforcement.

Patriot Consulting is working under the guidelines that all recommendations must maintain or preferably improve law enforcement delivery to the public and result in projected cost savings. There are no recommendations considered that will result in a reduction of services or in layoffs, terminations or reduction in staffing of sworn law enforcement officers.

The Two River Regional Police Study Group Executive Summary and Power Point Presentation can be accessed on the Borough's Website [www.rumsonnj.gov](http://www.rumsonnj.gov) or can be viewed at Borough Hall.

## **MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

The Memorial Day Parade took place on Monday, May 26 with Rumson organizations and groups marching from Forrestdale School down Blackpoint Road to River Road and on to Victory Park for the Memorial Day Service. This was a great turnout of enthusiastic participants and featured eighteen Rumson organizations. At the Service, the National Anthem was sung by Alexandria Howley, and Master of Ceremonies David Shinn introduced Mayor John E. Ekdahl whose remarks reflected his pride in our community and all of the residents who did so much to make the day such a success. Thirteen organizations presented wreaths in memory of those who once were active in their groups. Reverend Ophelia Laughlin of St. George's-by-the-River delivered the Invocation and the Benediction. The Mayor and Council would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all who worked behind the scenes to make every detail of the day go so well. Special thanks to The Rumson Fire Department and Chief Joe Ward, the Rumson First Aid Squad, the Police Department, Master of Ceremonies Dave Shinn and to all who gave the beautiful wreaths and other tributes. We also thank the dedicated DPW employees who had the Park looking more beautiful than ever and Jane Hartman and Loretta Chebookjian at Borough Hall.

## **RUMSON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

As summer approaches the half way point, the Rumson Police Department would like to stress the importance of staying safe while enjoying your favorite form of outdoor recreational activity. Whether you are on a bicycle, jogging or out for a walk there are many friendly reminders which will ensure that you make it home safely, while at the same time effectively coexisting with the motoring public on our roadways.

Motorists as well as bicyclists need to understand that bicycles are another vehicle on the roadway. They are subject to many of the same rules and regulations that vehicles have to abide by. Bicyclists travel with the flow of traffic and need to be in a single file not impeding the flow of vehicular traffic surrounding them. When turning they will signal their intention, and they have the right to be in the

lane of traffic while making that turn. It is a symbiotic relationship where both motorist and bicyclist have to respect one another. Remember, whether you are an avid bicyclist or a youngster traveling to a friend's house, your helmet will offer you your best line of defense if you happen to be in a fall. Not only is it recommended, but it is the law for any riders under the age of 17. We ask for parental support in ensuring that your children have their helmets on before they take to the street.

While the after dinner walk or your early morning jog may seem harmless, many potential perils exist if pedestrians are not aware of their surroundings and the rules of the road. Always run or walk facing traffic. When you're on roads, run defensively; assume that drivers can not see you. Use the sidewalks while walking or jogging, and, while crossing, use intersections and crosswalks if available. If doing any of the above listed activities in the early morning or early evening hours, remember to wear bright colored or reflective clothing, or carry a light source which will enhance the probability of being seen at these times.

When driving your car please remember to travel slowly and abide local traffic speed limits which will allow everyone on the roadway to return home safely. When following these simple rules along with using good solid common sense, your outdoor recreational experience is sure to be safer and more enjoyable.

## **SOLICITORS**

It is the time of year when we see companies and organizations come into the Borough to solicit our residents. We restrict the time that they are allowed to solicit to between 10 AM and 9 PM. In addition, the solicitors must register with our Police Department. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the Rumson Police Department at 842-0500.

## **RUMSON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Rumson Volunteer Fire Department has had several new members join over the past 7 months, all of whom have come to us fully trained. Two newcomers were Fire Chiefs in other towns, so the experience and knowledge they bring with them is very valuable. We would like to welcome them to our firefighting family. New members are always welcome! If you are interested in volunteering, applications are available at Borough Hall.

In May, the fire department took delivery of a specialized piece of equipment which you may have seen in the Memorial Day parade. It is a small fire truck with a big punch, called a satellite unit. This truck is four wheel drive and capable of reaching remote areas where our larger trucks cannot. It carries 2000 feet of 5" hose and many smaller hoses ready to fight fires at the large sprawling homes that grace our community.

If anyone is interested in an "up-close" look at your new truck or any of your town's fire-fighting equipment, please email the Fire Chief at [CHIEF4266IN2006@aol.com](mailto:CHIEF4266IN2006@aol.com) to get more information.

## **RUMSON FIRST AID SQUAD**

The Rumson First Aid Squad is an all-volunteer organization, staffed by your friends and neighbors. We provide basic pre-hospital emergency care services at no cost to the patient, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. Over the past 3 years, we have averaged roughly 380 calls per year and have already responded to approximately 160 calls to date through June 2008.

We recently submitted a grant application through the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant requesting funding for a back-up generator and an exhaust system for our building located behind Borough Hall. This federally-sponsored grant program provides financial assistance to volunteer first responder organizations such as

ours. We have already received support from our District 11 representatives, Senator Sean T. Kean, Assemblyman David Rible and Assemblywoman Mary Pat Angelini and are hopeful that our request gets selected in the next round of evaluation. Additional letters of support would be greatly appreciated – please contact one of these representatives if you are interested. Our application number is: EMW-2008-FO-12520.

As noted in the Spring Bulletin, we have been busy preparing a membership directory for all past and present members. To date, we have identified almost 200 residents who have volunteered their time with the First Aid Squad since its inception in 1949. While we have been soliciting the assistance of many retired members and are pleased to report that the progress to date has been encouraging, we can always use more help in filling in missing data such as a member's current location or birthday. If you are a former member of the Squad and have not received a copy of the membership list, please contact us through Borough Hall. We will promptly provide you with a copy.

Finally, we would like to take an opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of one of our members, Barbara Moorehead. Barbara has been a volunteer with the First Aid Squad for approximately ten years and served as a member of our Board of Trustees for the past five years. Barbara was also a school crossing guard and a fixture as the Snack Shack lady at Ship Ahoy Beach Club. Any resident who was in need of our services over the past decade most likely was tended to by Barbara in one form or another, as she averaged an incredible response rate of almost 70%. Just to be clear, assuming we have a 10 year average annual request for assistance of 350 calls per year (it's currently running at 380 per year, but this rate has been increasing over the past few years), Barbara responded to approximately 2,450 calls out of a total of 3,500 during her tenure. Rumson is lucky to have had such a dedicated person volunteering her time like this for such a long period. Sadly, Barbara has recently moved out of state to be closer to her family. We miss her terribly.

We are always looking for new members to join the First Aid Squad. If you are over the age of 18, please visit us at [www.rumsonems.org](http://www.rumsonems.org), or speak with any of our members.

### OCEANIC FREE LIBRARY

Children's Summer Reading Program, "Say ugh to a bug," will end on August 12 with a visit from the "Lizard Guy" and refreshments for all who have attended. There will be no programs for the children from August 19 to September 9, at which time the fall schedule will start following the usual hours.

We continue to hold exhibitions of local artists on a monthly basis. Fall exhibitors will include Vicky Culver presenting her photo collage in September. Mike Quon will display watercolors, and Anette Menzel's jewelry will be in the showcase in October. November artists are Anette Menzel showing paintings as well as Toni Cook's boxes in the showcase. In July, well-known photographer Larry Watson had a show entitled "Flowers, Bridges and Vistas of the Navesink" on display. At the same time, Book artist Richard Burton filled the showcase with his artworks.

Last winter we had an exhibition of the paintings of Dr. Roy Carman. Rather than following our request to donate 20% of the proceeds of his sales, Dr. Carman donated all of the money from his sales to the Library. We cannot thank Dr. Carman enough for supporting us so generously.

In April, we sent out the Annual Appeal letter to all registered Library members asking for donations. We are not a municipal library and are in need of funds to provide the community with the materials they have come to expect of us. Although we do receive

some money from the Borough of Rumson and the Rumson Community Appeal, it is the ongoing support of our patrons that help our village library as its residents have come to expect. Please join in and continue to keep us afloat!

### LIBRARY HOURS

Monday and Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturdays 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. beginning September 20.  
The Library will be closed on Mon. Sept. 1, Labor Day, Thurs. Oct. 9, Yom Kippur, and Mon. Oct. 13, Columbus Day.

**Book Club** meets fourth Thursday of the month; call the Library for details.  
**Knitting Group** meets Friday afternoons at 2 p.m. All levels welcome.

### CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS: EVERY TUESDAY

**Baby Storytime Series**, Ages 10 months to 2 years  
(with parent/Caregiver) 10:00-10:20 a.m.

**Toddler Storytime Series**, Ages 2-3 (with parent/caregiver)  
10:30-10:50 a.m.

**Preschool Storytime Series**, Ages 3-5, 11-11:30 a.m.

**School Age Programs**, Grades K- 5, 3:30-4:15 p.m.

We are excited to announce plans for the formation of FOOL (Friends of the Oceanic Library). We hope to attract library lovers and supporters to help us work toward additional improvements and projects to enhance our library and its profile in the community. If you have seen the Meeker Children's Room, you know what can be done. We are eager to welcome members to this new group. If you are interested in becoming a FOOL, please call the library at 732-842-2692.



How can your everyday shopping benefit the Oceanic Free Library? Join iGive.com and shop on line at over 600 online retailers including ebay, Lands End, Coldwater Creek, Comcast, Gap, Eddie Bauer and Cheap Tickets. The iGive.com retailers give a special rate to iGive.com purchasers, and they donate a percentage of your purchase price to the Oceanic Library. When you shop online, there are two options for using iGive.com. You can start at the [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) website and get to your retailer from there, or you can work from your retailer's website and look for the [www.iGive.com](http://www.iGive.com) window on the right side of the screen. The donation comes from the retailer; there is NOT an extra charge to the purchaser. All purchases made through iGive.com. will help the Library and will not cost the buyer anything other than the few seconds of time it takes to click on iGive.com. Join today by visiting [www.igive.com/OFL](http://www.igive.com/OFL), and turn your on-line purchases into much-needed tax-deductible donations for our Library.

### DONATIONS:

If you have finished with your CD books, please consider donating them to the Library. It would be very helpful to us because our budget is limited, and audio books are expensive. We also accept books that are in new condition. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY BOOKS OUTSIDE, as the weather will ruin them.

### SHADE TREE COMMISSION

*"Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago." W. Hoelfed*

Back in early June when 95-100 degree temperatures were with us for several days, most residents were probably grateful to have so



many tree-lined streets which provided cooling shade. According to the International Society of Arboriculture, "We like trees around us because they make life more pleasant."

If your property does not have shade trees, or if has space for more, please consider planting a tree for the future... you only need a shovel. To plant a tree is to plant a hope.

A variety of free tree brochures is available at Borough Hall.



*The Rumson Girls' Crew team went to England in June to compete in the Henley Women's Regatta and the Reading Regatta. Coach Dan Edwards said, "In fine Rumson tradition, they performed beyond all realistic expectations, and they did us proud! They rowed like they've never rowed before, and they became true athletes over there." Every Rumson spectator at the Reading Regatta was thrilled to hear the announcements that the Rumson Crew team was leading for a good portion of its race against top crews from England and Australia.*

## RUMSON RECREATION

Recreation soccer and flag football registration continues at the Borough Hall Mondays-Fridays from 8:30 am-4:30 pm. **Soccer-**Children must be in grades K-8 in September 2008. **Flag Football-**ages 5-8(must be 5 years old by August 1). There are limited openings at this time. Children will be placed on a team based on roster availability.

Rumson Crew will begin the fall rowing season in September. This program is for high school students who live in Rumson and Fair Haven. Registration forms may be completed at the Rumson Borough Hall or downloaded from the Rumson website at [www.rumsonnj.gov](http://www.rumsonnj.gov). Coaches will call or email the details regarding the practice session dates and times.

Recreation basketball registration forms will be sent home through the public schools at the end of September. Additional forms may be obtained at the Rumson Borough Hall or the Rumson Borough website [www.rumsonnj.gov](http://www.rumsonnj.gov). This program is for children who are in grades 1-8 during the 2008-09 school year. Children in grades 1 & 2 will participate in Saturday morning clinics. Children in grades 3-8 will participate in an in-town league. Start times for the clinic will be listed on the registration form (**please mark your calendar—you will not be called**). Coaches will call the children in grades 3-8 with team assignments and start times for the league practices and games.

Questions regarding any recreation programs may be sent to Recreation Director John Hird at [jhird@rumsonnj.gov](mailto:jhird@rumsonnj.gov) or call 732-530-6607.

## RUMSON WOMENS CLUB

Organized in 1939 by a group of young women interested in service to their community and fellowship, the Rumson Women's Club has been a quiet but active part of the community for over sixty years.

In 1955 the club became a member of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the national organization, which is the oldest and one of the largest women's organizations in the world. Women's Club is a non-denominational, non-partisan volunteer service organization whose work focuses on meeting the needs of others and providing its members with the opportunity for personal growth and leadership in the areas of education, social services, public affairs and conservation as well as outlets for individual artistic pursuits.

The Rumson Women's Club has completed another productive year of service to the community while having some fun along the way. The annual gift auction in April was a great success and has made it possible for the club to continue its financial support of the Rumson First Aid Squad, Fire Department and Library along with several local food pantries, domestic abuse shelters, Meals on Wheels, CASA, the Parker Family Health Clinic and our troops in Iraq.

## RUMSON WOMEN'S CLUB DONATES PHONE CARDS TO SOLDIERS



At each Annual Gift Auction held by the Rumson Women's Club, 50/50 raffle tickets are sold by a member wearing a Patriotic vest. The proceeds from this 50/50 are used to purchase phone cards which are donated to our soldiers who are serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sallie Tillman presented the phone cards to 1SGT Patrick Gongora (404th Civil Affairs Bn Airbourne) to be distributed to his battalion. It is a pleasure to help our soldiers keep in touch with their loved ones.

The club scholarship, based on community service, was awarded to Frank Joseph Mendoza at the awards night on June 16th at Rumson Fair Haven Regional High School. This is the 69<sup>th</sup> year that this scholarship has been awarded to a graduating senior from RFH or to a student residing in Rumson but attending a private school.

Again this year the Rumson Women's Club sent two girls from the High School to Girls Career Institute at Douglas College in New Brunswick for a weekend of both fun and educational programs and activities.

The new officers for 2008-2010 were installed at a dinner on April 30<sup>th</sup>. They are as follows:

- President – Judith McMaster
- Vice-President – Debbie Hughes
- Treasurer – Ellen Skowron
- Recording Secretary – Linda Babeuf
- Corresponding Secretary – Meredith Brown

The Rumson Women's Club meets on the first Monday of the month (except in September and January when we meet on the second Monday) at 7:30 p.m. in Bingham Hall during the months of September thru June. Interested women are always welcome. The

September meeting will be on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> at Ross's Dockside in Sea Bright at 6:30 pm. Call President Judy McMaster to reserve a spot. There will be a bus trip to the Feast of San Gennaro in Little Italy, New York City, on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The bus will leave from Bingham Hall at 6pm and will leave New York City at 11pm. The cost is \$20. To reserve a place, contact Thea at 732-842-0044. For more information about the Rumson Women's Club, please contact membership chairperson Muriel Walker at 732-291-7669 or President Judy McMaster at 732-842-1522.



*Troop 201 wished the Roberts family well as they prepared for their move to Chicago. Jamie Roberts was a great resource during her years of service as Troop Chairperson.*

### **RUMSON BOY SCOUT TROOP 201**

Congratulations to Troop 201's newest Eagle Scouts, Ian Roberts and Michael Roig! To earn the rank of Eagle, a Scout must advance through 7 ranks, earn at least 21 merit badges, hold troop leadership positions, and plan, develop, and lead other scouts in a service project. We are very proud of Michael and Ian and wish them much success in college!

During the month of May, the troop was visited by a representative of the FBI who presented the Scouts with information about careers in the Bureau, matters of national security and sound advice about making good decisions as teenagers. The Scouts were fascinated by the presentation and were given valuable information.

Twenty five Scouts, led by Rob Peterson, embarked on a canoe trip down the Delaware River. After an exciting afternoon on the water, the boys set up camp and cooked their meals at a nearby location. The month ended with annual service projects. The Scouts assisted in the town plant sale, and a group of the Scouts put on their work gloves, grabbed their shovels and headed to the cemetery for the annual clean-up. The troop proudly marched in the Memorial Day Parade, raised the flag at Victory Park and presented a wreath.

On a beautiful June evening, with the Navesink River as a backdrop, the troop held its final meeting. In keeping with tradition, the troop closed with the annual flag burning ceremony. Later in the month, the older scouts left for Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico, and in July thirty scouts headed off to NoBeBoSco Summer Camp.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our Troop Chairperson, Jaime Roberts. Jaime will be relocating to her hometown of Chicago. We thank her for all of her years of dedication and hard work to Troop 201. She is truly the heart and soul of our organization. Troop 201 wishes her and her sons health and happiness in their new home.

Troop 201 had another successful year packed with great adventures and life lessons! If you finished 5<sup>th</sup> grade or are 11 years old, consider joining this wonderful organization! We will be starting up

again in September, and we meet Wednesdays at 7:30 PM at Forrestdale School. If you would like more information, please contact Miriam Tort at [miriamtort@aol.com](mailto:miriamtort@aol.com).

### **RUMSON'S FIREWORKS ON THE NAVESINK!**

The Borough of Rumson celebrated our Nation's Independence on July 3<sup>rd</sup> with "Rumson's Fireworks on the Navesink!" The show was high above a barge moored west of the Oceanic Bridge and was synchronized with the "KaBoom! Fireworks on the Navesink" in Red Bank. Residents enjoyed the beautiful pyrotechnics from parties along the riverfront and from the Oceanic Bridge which provided a clear view all of the way to Red Bank. Thanks to all who made this such a special event.



*Fireworks photos courtesy of Scott Longfield, photographer for the Two River Times. Copies are available, contact [photos@tworivertimes.com](mailto:photos@tworivertimes.com).*



# Rumson Senior Citizens Club

At the June meeting, President Vivian McCormick presented Rev. John Monroe with a \$500.00 check from the Club, in appreciation for the hospitality shown by the Rumson Presbyterian Church, which allows the group to meet bi-monthly and to hold its annual Holiday Bazaar at the Church. She also acknowledged her committee chairpersons for their help throughout the year: Kitchen, Jean Strohmenger and Fran Merkel; Sunshine, Lillian Haines; Office on Aging, Dottie Burlew and Jeanne Cuje, Publicity. She also expressed appreciation to the men who set up the tables and chairs for every meeting: John Kondrup, Tom Merkel, Bob Johnston, Walter Cuje and Art Newman.

On May 14th, a Budget Committee meeting was held. The annual dues have been \$10.00 since the group organized in 1970. It was decided to increase the dues to \$15.00. Members voted unanimously to accept the change.

Once again, donning their red, white and blue, the Seniors proudly participated in the Memorial Day Parade. At the service in Victory Park, our wreath was presented by President McCormick and John Kondrup.

On June 11th, members enjoyed the annual Spring Luncheon at the Oyster Point Hotel. The event was co-chaired by Margaret Reynolds and Peg Shea. Members welcomed Mayor John Ekdahl and his wife, Lolly. The members truly missed the presence of Former Mayor, Chillie Callman, who is also an Honorary Member of the Club and has never missed a luncheon. The group was entertained by Margaret Reynolds's two grandsons, David and Michael Pizzolato who both played the piano.

A Club tradition is to present a \$100.00 award to graduating seniors at RFH who are relatives of members. This year's awards went to Casey Herrlick, Rose Malaspina's granddaughter and Tara McCormick, granddaughter of President Vivian McCormick. Another Club tradition is to present members who celebrate their 90th birthday with a very special cake. At the June social meeting, members applauded Beth McCullough who celebrated her 90th and Rose Rimali who celebrated her 95th.

On June 28th, members enjoyed the annual family picnic at Victory Park. Each member brought a salad and/or dessert. This gathering concludes the activities for the year and is always well attended. Hats

off to Walter Cuje, John Kondrup, Art Newman, Bob Johnston and Bill Scalzo. They set up and clean up! Walter likes flipping those burgers and dogs. He also provided nice music.

The Club is proud to acknowledge Elizabeth Vallis who placed third in a statewide competition for her painting and received the grand prize for her bracelet. Elizabeth is a fine artist who has won many awards over the years. We are all very proud of her.

Some members are also part of the Holy Cross Busy Bees, who organized in October, 2007. They made scarves for soldiers serving in Iraq, lap blankets for shut-ins and hats for premature babies. They also volunteered in the school library and worked with other groups. Their first fundraiser was a Bunco Game which was supported by the Seniors. Working and socializing with the community is what membership is all about.

Members went on a trip to the Tropicana in Atlantic City on June 18th where they enjoyed the show, Best of Broadway and a terrific luncheon.

Condolences were extended to Dolores Ryan in the loss of her brother, Ruth Hoehle who lost her sister and Peg Connor in the loss of her brother, former Rumson Police Chief, Jim Shea.

The Club does not meet during July and August. Meetings will resume on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 11:00 AM in Wilson Hall, Rumson Presbyterian Church. President McCormick welcomes all Rumson residents, 55 and older, as well as their family members and friends who live outside of Rumson. This is a very busy and exciting group...consider joining us in September.

Enjoy a safe and wonderful Summer!

Respectfully Submitted:

*Jeanne Cuje*, Publicity Chairman

## Meeting Schedule:

September 8 & 22      October 13 & 27



In our last issue, we instituted a special section honoring our young people from Rumson who are serving with the Armed Forces. We listed the military personnel that we were able to find, but we missed one young man. Army Specialist Brian Custer, grandson of Ed Duffy, is based in Fort Drum, NY and is serving his first tour in Iraq. He is working as an air controller and finishing a fifteen month deployment. Specialist Custer is due home this month. We join the Duffy family in hoping for his safe arrival and hope to see Brian Custer back in town very soon.

Please keep the following Rumson servicemen and women in your thoughts as we wish for their well-being and safe return from their assignments: Corporal Brendan Duffy, USMC; Sergeant Morgan Kavanaugh, USMC; Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick George, US Navy; Christian George, US Coast Guard; Sergeant Matt Marks, USMC; Major (P) Lisa Jenny Hou, NJ Army National Guard Medical Corps; and 1st Lt. Jonathan Erwin, US Army.

If anyone knows of any other Rumson people who are serving in the military, please let your editor know at [avananda@comcast.net](mailto:avananda@comcast.net) so that we can highlight them in upcoming issues. We are also asking families of servicemen and women to provide photographs to be displayed at Borough Hall.



Specialist Brian Custer

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John E. Ekdahl

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Roberta H. Van Anda, Editor

[www.rumsonnj.gov](http://www.rumsonnj.gov)

## RUMSON BOROUGH HALL

(732) 842-3300

## DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS

(732) 842-8941

## AUGUST

- 4 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
- 12 & 26 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
- 19 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm
- 20 Recreation Commission, 7:30 pm
- 27 Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 pm

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 **LABOR DAY: NO GARBAGE COLLECTION; RUMSON BOROUGH HALL AND OCEANIC LIBRARY CLOSED**
- 3 Shade Tree Commission, 4:00 pm
- 8 & 22 Senior Citizens Club, Presbyterian Church, 11:00 am
- 8 Planning Board, 7:30 pm
- 8 Rumson Women's Club, Ross's Dockside, 6:30 pm
- 9 & 23 Borough Council, 7:30 pm
- 16 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm
- 17 Recreation Commission, 7:30 pm
- 24 Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 pm

## OCTOBER

- 6 Planning Board
- 6 Rumson Womens' Club, Bingham Hall, 7:30 pm
- 13 **COLUMBUS DAY: NO GARBAGE COLLECTION; RUMSON BOROUGH HALL AND OCEANIC FREE LIBRARY CLOSED**
- 13 & 27 Senior Citizens Club, Presbyterian Church, 11:00 am
- 14 & 28 Rumson Borough Council, 7:30 pm
- 15 Recreation Commission, 7:30 pm
- 21 Zoning Board, 7:30 pm
- 22 Historic Preservation Commission, 7:30 pm

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